

Appl. No. : 09/882,434
Filed : June 15, 2001

For reasons stated herein, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement with regards to Groups I and II upon allowance of linking claims 1 and 5 and/or 14. The issue of a modified restriction in accordance with M.P.E.P. 809.03 is respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

Applicants have elected Group I, comprising claims 1, 2 and 5-15 for examination, with traverse in response to the Restriction Requirement. Upon allowance of claims 1 and 5 and/or 14, claims 1-15 should be examined as a single Group.

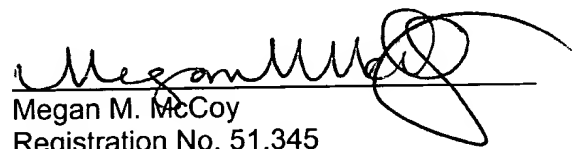
If any clarification is needed, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number appearing below. Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 26 December 2002

By:


Megan M. McCoy
Registration No. 51,345
Agent of Record
Customer No. 20,995
(805) 547-5580

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